

S E C R E T

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Deputy for National Intelligence

29 September 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant to the President for National
Security Affairs

Director, Intelligence & Research, Department
of State

Assistant Secretary of Defense, International
Security Affairs

Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

FROM : Robert R. Bowie
Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

SUBJECT : Presidential Intelligence Priorities

1. Under the Presidential decision and Executive Order, the main formal mechanism for the policy-makers to define their needs for intelligence will be the Policy Review Committee. Hence, in developing priorities, it is useful to ask how the PRC can best express its interests to the Intelligence Community. It will wish to make sure that the Intelligence Community devotes itself not only to furnishing information of immediate policy concern, but also to providing the basic research on issues that will be of continuing policy concern over extended periods of time. Consequently, I have concluded that the Policy Review Committee might well adopt a two-tiered approach to developing intelligence priorities.

2. The sample list of broad topics of basic long-term interest (Tab A) is intended to guide our long-range efforts in analysis and collection, and point the way to more specific topics for basic National Intelligence Estimates. This list would probably change only gradually over time, but it should receive regular review to ensure that it always accurately reflected major concerns.

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3. Tab B is a sample list of issues of immediate interest. Many of these issues are, in fact, subsets of the more basic topics in Tab A. I would expect that the Policy Review Committee would review this listing at regular intervals -- perhaps every other month -- with a view to ensuring that it is up to date and, further, that it take into account planned policy initiatives and expected developments that might generate needs for intelligence.

4. I am submitting these lists as the basis for discussion at our next meeting. We can then discuss the usefulness of the proposed approach as well as the substance of the lists themselves, which, if approved by the PRC, would be sent to the agencies of the Intelligence Community for translating into specific intelligence requirements.



Robert R. Bowie

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Attachments
As stated

RRBowie:am (29 Sept 77)

Original & 3 - Addressees

- 1 - DDI
- 1 - AD/DCI/NI
- 1 - EO/DCI/NI
- 1 - D/DCI/NI Chrono
- ① - File: Presidential Priorities
- 1 - RI

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TAB A

National Intelligence Topics of Basic Long-Term Interest

I.

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II. The USSR and Eastern Europe

- Soviet foreign policy
- Soviet military capabilities and intentions
- strategic arms reduction
- advanced technology
- Soviet economic prospects
- trends and stability in Eastern Europe
- Communist activities in the Third World

III. China

- Sino-Soviet relations
- economic and political prospects
- prospects for U.S./PRC normalization of relations
- military capabilities and intentions
- foreign policy

IV.

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V.

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VI. Global Issues

- human rights
- nuclear proliferation
- energy
- arms transfers
- technology transfer
- transnational terrorism
- food and population prospects
- resources
- environment

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